


Launch of the battle cruiser "Hindenburg."

# WAR- CHRONICLE

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## British Foreign Office Statement regarding Anglo-German Negotiations in 1912.

The British Foreign Office publishes the following statements regarding the Anglo-German negotiations of the year 1912.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" published an account of the Anglo-German negotiations of 1912 last month. This account was misleading, and was no doubt intended to mislead, and made it appear that the British Government had at that time rejected what would be regarded in many quarters as a reasonable offer of friendship from Germany.

In these circumstances it may be as well to publish a statement of the facts compiled from official records here. Early in 1912, the German Imperial Chancellor sketched to Lord Haldane the following formula as one which would meet the views of the Imperial Government:

1. The high contracting parties assure each other mutually of their desire of peace and friendship.

2. They will not either of them make or prepare to make (unprovoked) attack upon the other, or join in any combination or design against the other for purposes of aggression, or become party to any plan, or naval or military enterprise alone or in combination with any other power directed to such an end, and declare not to be bound by any such engagement.

3. If either of the high contracting parties becomes entangled in a war with one or more Powers, in which it cannot be said to be the aggressor, the other party will at least observe towards the Power so entangled a benevolent neutrality and will use its utmost endeavour for the localization of the conflict. If either of the high contracting parties is forced to go to war by obvious provocation from a third party, they bind themselves to enter into an exchange of views concerning their attitude in such a conflict.

4. The duty of neutrality, which arises out of the preceding article, has no application in so far as it may not be reconcilable with existing agreements, which the high contracting parties have already made.

5. The making of new agreements, which render it impossible for either of the parties to observe neutrality towards the other beyond what is provided by the preceding limitation, is excluded in conformity with the provisions in article 2.

6. The high contracting parties declare that they will do all in their power to prevent differences and misunderstandings arising between either of them and other powers.

These conditions, although in appearance fair as between the parties, would have been grossly unfair and one-sided in their operation. Owing to the general position of the European Powers,

and the treaty engagements by which they were bound, the result of articles 4 and 5 would have been that, while Germany in the case of a European conflict would have remained free to support her friends, England would have been forbidden to raise a finger in defence of hers.

Germany could arrange without difficulty that the formal inception of hostilities should rest with Austria. If Austria and Russia were at war, Germany would support Austria, as is evident from what occurred at the end of July 1914; while as soon as Russia was attacked by two Powers, France was bound to come to her assistance. In other words, the pledged neutrality offered by Germany, would have been absolutely valueless, because she could always plead the necessity of fulfilling her existing obligations under the Triple Alliance as an excuse for departing from neutrality. On the other hand, no such departure, however serious the provocation, would have been possible for Great Britain, which was bound by no Alliances with the exception of those with Japan and Portugal, while the making of fresh alliances was prohibited by article 5. In a word, as appeared still more evident later, there was to be a guarantee of absolute neutrality on one side, but not on the other.

It was impossible for us, to enter into a contract so obviously inequitable and the formula was accordingly rejected by Sir Edward Grey.

Count Metternich upon this, pressed for counter-proposals, which he stated would be without prejudice and not binding unless we were satisfied that our wishes were met on the naval question. On this understanding, Sir Edward Grey on 14th March, 1912, gave Count Metternich the following draft formula, which had been approved by the Cabinet:

"England will make no unprovoked attack upon Germany, and pursue no aggressive policy towards her. Aggression upon Germany is not the subject, and forms no part of any treaty, understanding or combination to which England is now a party, nor will she become a party to anything that has such an object."

Count Metternich thought this formula inadequate, and suggested two alternative additional clauses:

"England will therefore observe benevolent neutrality, should war be forced upon Germany, or England will therefore as a matter of course remain neutral, if a war is forced upon Germany."

This, he added, would not be binding, unless our wishes were met with regard to the Naval programme.

Sir Edward Grey considered that the British proposals were sufficient. He explained that if Germany desired to crush France, England might not be able to sit still, though, if France were aggressive or attacked Germany, no support would be given by His Majesty's Government, or approved by England. It is obvious that the real object of the German proposal was to obtain the neutrality



of England in all eventualities, since, should a war break out, Germany would certainly contend that it had been forced upon her, and would claim that England should remain neutral. An admirable example of this is the present war, in which, in spite of the facts, Germany contends that war had been forced upon her. Even the third member of the Triple Alliance, who had sources of information not open to us, did not share this view, but regarded it as an aggressive war.

Sir Edward Grey eventually proposed the following formula:

"The two Powers, being mutually desirous of securing peace and friendship between them, England declared that she will neither make nor join any unprovoked attack upon Germany. Aggression upon Germany is not the subject, and forms no part of any treaty, understanding or combination to which England is now a party, nor will she become a party to anything that has such an object."

Sir Edward Grey when he handed this formula to Count Metternich, said that the use of the word "neutrality" would convey the impression that more was meant than was warranted by the text. He suggested that the substance of what was required would be obtained and more accurately expressed by the words: "will neither make, nor join in any unprovoked attack."

Count Metternich thereupon received instructions to make it quite clear that the Chancellor could recommend the Emperor to give up the essential parts of the *Novelle* (the Bill then pending for the increase of the German Navy) only, if we could conclude an agreement guaranteeing neutrality of a far-reaching character and leaving no doubt as to any interpretation. The Ambassador admitted that the Chancellor's wish amounted to a guarantee of absolute neutrality, failing which the *Novelle* must proceed.

Count Metternich stated that there was no chance of the withdrawal of the *Novelle*, but said that it might be modified; it would be disappointing to the Chancellor if we did not go beyond the formula we had suggested.

Sir Edward Grey replied that he could understand that there would be disappointment, if His Majesty's Government were to state that the carrying out of the *Novelle* would put an end to the negotiations and form an unsurmountable obstacle to better relations. His Majesty's Government did not say this, and they hoped the formula which they had suggested, might be considered in connection with the discussion of territorial arrangements, even if it did not prove effective in preventing the increase of naval expenditure.

Sir Edward Grey added that if some arrangements could be made between the two Governments, it would have a favourable though indirect effect upon naval expenditure as time went on; it would have moreover a favourable and direct effect upon public opinion in both countries.

A few days afterwards, Count Metternich communicated to Sir Edward Grey the substance of a letter from the Chancellor, in which the latter said that as the formula suggested by His Majesty's Government, was insufficient from the German point of view, and as His Majesty's Government could not agree to the larger formula for which he had asked, the *Novelle* must proceed on the lines on which it had been presented to the Federal Council. The negotiations then came to an end, and with them the hope of a mutual reduction in the expenditure on armaments of the two countries.

## German Reply to British Foreign Office Statement regarding Anglo-German negotiations in 1912.

Berlin, 8th September 1915.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" writes:

The statements published by the British Foreign Office regarding the Anglo-German negotiations of the year 1912, are now before us and prove to be an attempt on the part of the British Government to divert the English public and the world at large from the simple and clear fact, that the German endeavours in the winter of 1912, to come to an understanding with England, which would have secured the peace of the world, failed owing to the English Cabinet's refusal to assure neutrality to Germany in the case of war being forced upon her, not absolute neutrality, as stated by Mr. Asquith in a public speech and by Sir Edward Grey in the "Times" of 27th January.

We must first state that a demand for absolute neutrality was not contained in the draft, which Lord Haldane brought back from London to Berlin, the Minister having repudiated the German formula—published by us on 18th July of this year—as going too far. The Foreign Office now follows the tactics of publishing said draft in all details, in which the duties of neutrality are limited to the case of a war, in which the contracting party cannot be considered as aggressors, in order to show that there was here a question of the German Government endeavouring to secure for Germany the absolute neutrality of England, while keeping a free hand for her own actions. The statements brought forward that the German formula would have offered Germany a possibility of provoking a war by means of her Ally and then based on her treaty duties participate in same, while at the same time demanding neutrality from England. That the English offer not to join any unprovoked attack on Germany offered England the possibility of stirring up a war against Germany by means of her friends and then under the pretext that here there was no case of an unprovoked attack, appears to have escaped the Foreign Office judgment. Mutual confidence and good will is the natural supposition for all such agree-



ments. The German Government in consideration of its duties as bound by treaties existing with the other members of the Dreibund was obliged to take care that the negotiations would not be in any wise contrary to these existing obligations. Thus it was that a clause was contained in the German draft, assuring German neutrality only in the case of same being compatible with the Dreibund agreements. All further German proposals are now considered by the English Government and echoed by the entire English Press as being a wily snare. Of course, the present war is shown as an example for German slyness. We do not want to disturb these illusions, but must draw attention to the remarkable fact that the English proclamation as supporting the statement that the war is one of German aggression refers to faithless Italy. We have certain reasons for supposing that the newly formed relations with Italy branded for all time owing to her treachery, are looked upon by her present Allies as a *Pudendum*. The English Government, which entered the war with such an amount of noble enthusiasm in the support of the sacred cause of treaties, makes an exception in this case by referring to the Italian testimony.

It is deeply to be regretted that all the fine arguments with which the English Government now endeavours to prove, why the German neutrality formulæ were unacceptable for England, were neither at the disposal of Lord Haldane nor Sir Edward Grey when they negotiated with Count Metternich in the winter of 1912. Otherwise it might have been possible for the Ambassador to reassure the Ministers or propose other formulæ suitable to assuage these fears. Graf Metternich's reports in the winter of 1912 clearly show that the British Ministers then frankly admitted their solicitude for Great Britain's relations with England and France. That this was the dominant influence of their attitude is proved by the following reports from Count Metternich:

"London, 15th February 1912.

Yesterday, Lord Haldane informed me at some length about his conferences in Berlin, from which I could ascertain that the information your Excellency sent me, was exactly in accord with Lord Haldane's statement. Lord Haldane said that his impressions and the information gathered by him in Berlin, made the best impression upon Sir Edward Grey, the Prime Minister and colleagues and that the Cabinet ardently desired an agreement.

Still, Lord Haldane was quite aware of the great difficulties caused by the neutrality agreement and the Navy Bill. The British Government, he said, could not accept our draft of a neutrality treaty, as it did not wish to jeopardise friendly relations with France and Russia, but he believed that a draft of the nature he proposed, would have a great and beneficial effect on the relations of both nations, and that such a treaty would prove to the world that both Governments were firm in their decision to live in peace and

friendship with one another. Such a treaty would also remove possible causes of friction with Germany, due to Great Britain's hitherto existing Entente relations.

If we accepted Lord Haldane's proposal, or a similar formula, therewith would be laid in the British Nation a basis of confidence in reciprocal relations, without which no diplomatic formula has a lasting value. If, however, the formula chosen exerted an unfavourable influence on Great Britain's relations with France and Russia, then a priori the agreement with us would be unpopular in Great Britain. Consequently, the agreement would not have the intrinsic value and force, which it ought to have for creating mutual friendly relations.

(signed) Metternich."

(We must here remark that Lord Haldane, when in Berlin, drafted a neutrality formula, which nearly accorded with the proposal, which was made later to Sir Edward Grey.)

The second dispatch from Count Metternich is dated: London, 17th March 1912.

In explanation of the treaty, which Sir Edward Grey proposed to me to-day after a further Cabinet meeting, regarding an agreement on the Navy Bill, the contents of which I am sending you by telegraph, the Minister said, he would frankly tell me why the British Government objected to incorporating the word "neutral" or "neutrality" in the treaty. With regard to the proposal for a treaty, Sir Edward Grey said, he must not only consider relations with Germany, but also those with other countries. The British Government must reckon with the fact of Germany's growing naval power, which would be considerably increased by the projected Navy Bill. Therefore, Great Britain could not jeopardise her existing friendships. A direct neutrality treaty would most certainly irritate French sensibility, which the British Government must avoid. He could not go so far as to imperil Great Britain's friendship with France for the following reasons:

Sir Edward Grey, in view of his absolute confidence in Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg's policy, was firmly convinced that the relations between Germany and Great Britain would improve, and that possible difficulties, which might arise between both Governments, would not assume unpleasant dimensions. Sir Edward Grey said, he went still further and guaranteed that the British policy would be carried on in the spirit of the treaty, even though the conclusion of a treaty might not be possible for the moment owing to the Naval Bill. However, a neutrality treaty in its effects was independent of persons and consequently the British Government was obliged to consider that a change might be possible in the responsible position of the Imperial policy, it could not, therefore, go beyond the proposed treaty, nor incur the risk of losing French friendship, and sit between two stools.



It was sufficient to create between us relations of full confidence, assuring peace without Great Britain's jeopardising existing friendships. His policy was directed to avoiding a new grouping of the powers in two camps. This, in the course of time, would bear fruits.

(Signed) Metternich.

That one of the reasons for Sir Edward Grey's non-acceptance of the German proposal, was the possibility of a change of the leading German Statesman is a proof, of how ignorant the Minister is of continental and especially German conditions. Owing to the fact that the Ministers in all countries, especially in France, change frequently, an acceptance of Sir Edward Grey's point of view, which only takes special conditions in England into consideration, would mean that international agreements were impossible altogether. For this reason Count Metternich was instructed to observe to Sir Edward Grey that Germany's foreign policy, unlike that of Great Britain, did not exclusively depend on a temporary Government, or a parliamentary majority, but that the Emperor's person was a guarantee of Germany's policy, and that policy would in the future be carried on in peaceful paths, as it had never left them under the Emperor William's Government. The Minister, however, demanded that Germany should renounce the projected armaments, which competent German military quarters considered to be absolutely necessary as a defensive measure against an attack by the united Entente Navies, but he refused to give the required guarantees against such an attack.

Anyhow, Sir Edward Grey's proposed formula was of no value from this point of view. If the Minister further pointed to the possibility of a change in the direction of Germany's policy in the future, he overlooked the fact that an eventual treaty, which in any case could not be concluded for a long time, would bind us no less than Great Britain. Consequently, should we now renounce the execution of the Navy Bill to the extent proposed, we would ourselves be in a situation of naval inferiority to the Triple Entente Powers in the event of a change in British Policy. The risk, therefore, would be equal on both sides. Consequently Count Metternich must not leave the British Government in doubt that British neutrality, outlined in a reciprocal defensive treaty of a far-reaching, safe-guarding character would form an absolute basis, on which alone Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg could advocate to the Kaiser a renunciation of the essential part of the Navy Bill and justify the same to public opinion in Germany.

Count Metternich believed that he had to interpret his instructions in the sense that only a treaty absolutely guaranteeing Great Britain's neutrality would accord with such a basis. As the British statement says, he expressed himself in this sense to Sir Edward Grey, but the Foreign Office does not mention that Graf Metternich afterwards withdrew this plan on Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg's instructions.



When Graf Metternich reported to Berlin that Sir Edward Grey had referred to the fact that in Lord Haldane's conversation with the Imperial Chancellor regarding the neutrality formula, absolute neutrality was not demanded as now appeared to be the case, the Ambassador received instructions to acquaint Sir Edward Grey with the fact that the German proposal was based on the formula drafted in Berlin by Lord Haldane in Berlin. The Imperial Chancellor also approved of the two alternative additional clauses, which had been drafted by Count Metternich: "England will, therefore, observe benevolent neutrality should war be forced upon Germany," or "England will, therefore, as a matter of course remain neutral, if a war is forced upon Germany," in which absolute neutrality is not demanded. The Imperial Government did not lay so much stress upon the form, as the spirit of the English assurances. Germany must be assured that it would neither be subjected to a direct attack from England, nor in the case of war becoming unavoidable, owing to provocation from a third party.

On March 26, Count Metternich telegraphed that before the British Cabinet Council took a final decision, he would point out that the German formulæ only provided relative neutrality, and that Germany did not expect absolute neutrality from Great Britain, adding that he believed this would render the possibility of a settlement more attainable.

The following report, however, shows that the Ambassador's hopes were not to be realized.

London, 29th March 1912.

The Cabinet Council again dealt with the question of a political agreement with us. The British Government will not go beyond the formula which they proposed. Sir Edward Grey objected to the draft neutrality treaty I received from Berlin, because it could be variously interpreted. Such a treaty, he said, would go farther than any which Great Britain had concluded with any European Power, except the old Portuguese alliance. Our draft, he declared, was almost similar with an alliance. I recently expressed the desire for an agreement, implying far-reaching neutrality. A treaty absolutely binding to neutrality would, he said, be misinterpreted by other Powers, and might prejudice Great Britain's relations with them, which British policy desired to avoid. On the contrary, the British formula was clear and it contained the intention of neutrality in the event of an unprovoked attack by a third party: "England will neither make nor join in any unprovoked attack." (England wird keinen unprovoczten Angriff machen oder sich an einem solchen beteiligen.)

I replied that I had told him some days before that we did not lay so much stress on the form as on the spirit of the English assurances, but that if the British formula implied neutrality, it would be necessary precisely to avoid ambiguity and that we must

have the assurance of English neutrality, in case of being forced to go to war owing to provocation from a third party. Consequently I again proposed the addition to the British formula, which I had already indicated before: "England will, therefore, as a matter of course observe an attitude of benevolent neutrality, should war be forced upon Germany." (England wird daher selbstverständlich wohlwollende Neutralität beobachten, sollte Deutschland ein Krieg aufgezwungen werden.)

This addition does not contain any treaty, but that on which we laid stress, the clear expression of the spirit of neutrality in the case of an attack from a third party. There is a great difference between the promise of not wishing to harm each other and mutual assistance. When Sir Edward Grey stated that England had not come to any neutrality treaty terms with France, Russia, or any other country, I called his attention to the fact that the British policy had not given the French any reason to doubt English neutrality, for a number of years past, on the contrary, it had awakened a belief in possible English support. Germany on the other hand was not certain of English neutrality for some years past. On the contrary, during the course of the past few years, even last summer, situations had arisen, showing that we might possibly expect our enemies to be supported by England. For this reason, a neutrality agreement between England and France was unnecessary, but for us essential.

Sir Edward Grey contradicted the opinion cherished by us that England had planned an attack on us last year. I replied that I did not allude to the exaggerations of public opinion of both sides, but to the fact, that England and Germany, several times during the course of the past few years, and especially last summer had been on the brink of warlike entanglements. These must be avoided by a neutrality agreement. The English formula was not sufficient to ward off this danger in the future, neither was it sufficient to warrant a change in our Naval Bill.

The Minister remarked hereto that an increase of the present Naval Bill would not allow the English Government to enter into any political agreement with us for the moment, but that there was no question here of the Naval Bill being totally abandoned.

If however, the proposed Naval Bills were carried out on both sides, still he distinctly declared that he neither wished nor intended negotiations to be broken off for that reason. On the contrary, he hoped that confidential relations would be reinstituted and that an agreement would be reached in colonial and territorial questions and that, when some time had elapsed, negotiations as to a political agreement, similar to those proposed by England, could be taken up again. When the said naval questions had again quieted down, a political agreement, showing the good will of both Cabinets in conjunction with an understanding as to colonial questions, would not

fail to have a favourable effect on public opinion in both countries, and he hoped would then have indirect effect upon the naval expenditure and armaments of both countries.

Finally I remarked that the Imperial Government did not recognize in the English formula the necessary basis, which would lead to the favourable and desired results, which Sir Edward Grey depicted.

(Signed) Metternich.

From this report, the English point of view is clearly obvious. Sir Edward Grey demanded a complete renunciation of the military measures, which Germany had proposed on account of the threatening attitude exhibited by England in the summer of 1911 and offered as a recompense the sole assurance that it would not in future make or join any unprovoked attack on Germany!

Count Metternich was now instructed to inform the English Government that it was impossible for the Imperial Government to agree to any change in the *Novelle*, owing to the fact that the English Government could not agree to the neutrality, terms, as demanded by the Imperial Government. If Sir Edward Grey remarks that the formula proposed by the German Government would exceed any other treaty made by the English Government with any European Power, except Portugal, he may be right. He overlooks the fact however that the German equivalent would have been without precedence in history. Finally, that the Imperial Government would be pleased to continue the exchange of opinions relating to colonial and territorial questions.

Thus it was, that the negotiations were brought to a close and with them as the English report states, the hope of a mutual reduction in the expenditure on armaments of the two countries. Even the hope given by the German Government to England of freeing her from the night-mare of the German naval armaments, could not bring the English Government to grasp the hand which Germany stretched out. England kept a free hand and repulsed the most far-reaching German offers before the outbreak of war, which would have enabled her not to participate without her interests being affected. She wished to participate in the fight for the annihilation of Germany and had to do so, as the same English Minister, as had assured Count Metternich on 17th March 1912, that his policy would be directed to avoid a new grouping of the powers in two camps, but a few months later, brought about the famous interchange of Notes with the French Ambassador, which formally sealed the cooperation of England and France against Germany, and he was determined in the spring of last year to bind England and Russia in a similar manner. Seldom has a statesman been able so little to suit actions to his words as Sir Edward Grey, who always talked about terms of understanding, demobilisation, peace and conferences, but who simultaneously caused and furthered the



challenging, military policy of the Entente Powers, to which Europe can attribute the catastrophe that has come upon her.

When the secret archives of the Foreign Office be published at some later date, the world will learn of some interesting facts regarding Lord Haldane's mission. Those who understand how to read between the lines of the history of the day and have carefully followed up the Belgian Minister's reports, will easily guess that there were still some special connections with the Haldane mission. The eagerness, with which the Paris Press Bureau assured the public that the French Ambassador in London, Monsieur Cambon, had been informed by Sir Edward Grey of each phase of the negotiations, is of special interest in this respect.

## Russian Falsifications.

How the Russians published the German General Staff Report of 29th August 1915.

### *German Report:*

Displaying cruelty which must disgust our troops and our whole nation, the Russians have employed thousands of harmless inhabitants, their own country-folk, including several women and children to mask their positions against our attacks. Our guns were reluctantly obliged to demand toll of many of their lives.

### *Reproduction of the Report published in the "Nowoje Vremja" on 31st August 1915:*

How great was the Germans' effort to press forward with enormous speed, is shown by the fact that in the fighting near Kobryn the troops of the Mackensen Army shot down everything they came upon, including many women and children. This is admitted by the German Main Headquarter's Report of 29th August, which states that the German troops admit that they were reluctantly obliged in the course of these attacks to shoot thousands of Russians, including many women and children. At the same time the Germans did not hesitate while truthfully admitting their barbaric conduct, to add a public and wilful lie in the hope of mitigating their actions that they had been forced to shoot these people,

owing to the fact that these undefended inhabitants, women and children, had been employed to mask our positions. Thus it is that the Germans disregard the most elementary rules and customs of war, not recognizing any of the agreements laid down by International Law.

## How the German "Barbarians" protect French Works of Art.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of 10th September writes:

Not long ago, the "Temps" published an article with a heading "Exhibition of Stolen Works of Art" on the Works of the Renaissance Sculptor Ligier Richier, one of the most celebrated of Michel Angelo's pupils.

In the Metz newspaper, from which the "Temps" had obviously taken its information, it could be distinctly read that these works of art had been removed from the Museum in Metz to a place of safety, until the war should be over. The contributor to the "Temps" therefore once more wilfully designated the German authorities as thieves. The whole affair is not worthy of a reply, still so as to prove the work of culture carried out by the Germans in and behind the front, the following facts have been ascertained.

In the Templerkapelle at Metz, the three following works of art of Richiers have been erected:

1. The crucifixion group from the Church of Hattonchatel, the master's great work done in his youth, dating from 1523. This monument as well as some other objects had to be removed from the church, as it was threatened by the building falling in—which in the meantime has partially taken place—and would have been buried under the debris.

2. The Pietà from Étain, also in stone, owing to the fact that it was threatened with destruction, in the church that was burnt and shot to pieces by the French shells and is even still under fire.

3. The wood carving of the Virgin Mary, who has fainted and is being supported by St. John. This had to be removed from the church of St. Michel, owing to the fact that the church had been hit more than once by French shells and no effective protection for the wooden statue was procurable at the place itself.

Works of art that would have suffered by being transported, as for instance, Richier's master piece, the celebrated "Laying in the Tomb" from the Church of St. Stephen at St. Mihiel, was left

there, but carefully protected by walls of sand-bags erected by the "Barbarians," so as to save it from the shells fired by the first nation of culture. The governor of the German civil administration in the occupied territories of Longvy and Briey has received numerous requests from the owners of land and houses in these places to the effect that if possible he would have their valuable furniture, pictures, goblins, silver, documents, etc. likewise brought to Metz, as they would be ruined otherwise by the French artillery. The governor of the province has complied with all of these wishes so that a great many of the works of art have been placed in safety for their owners.

Wherever works of art had to be removed from public buildings, so as to ensure their safety, the men who removed them, met with gratitude and unlimited confidence as displayed by the natives.

Besides monuments and statues, many archives and libraries, especially valuable manuscripts, were saved from the ruin caused by the shelling, and brought to a place of safety.

Several lists have been compiled of all works of art, archives, and manuscripts that have been brought to Metz, the original copies of which have been sent to the owners in so far as this was possible and otherwise have been deposited in the Metz Archives. The other lists have been deposited at the principal branch of the Reichsbank in Metz and at the Home Office in Berlin and contain descriptions of the owners.

Thus it is that the German military and civil authorities are working hand in hand with German science, often enough rendering services of culture in the enemy country at the risk of their lives to international science by preserving from destruction, works of art and manuscripts thus preserving them for their owners and science in general. The unscrupulous French Press however accuses those who saved the works of art belonging to their country of barbarism and theft. That is an example of French "Culture"....

## How Public Opinion in France is Poisoned.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of 14th September 1915 writes:

The slanderers of the German methods in France have discovered a new theme. Their press is now actively employed in showing credulous readers, how irreligious the German troops are. As the funds of imagination required for the decoration of the hitherto alleged atrocities have almost run out, the new fables are supplemented with vulgarity. A system however can be recognized in this fresh campaign of lies, directed against German honour. For this reason we must retort to the "calumniare audacter" with a "quos ego."



As usual, the "Matin" appears on the scene as one of the principal fathers of the lie. In its number dated 13th July 1915, it publishes the following with the heading "Knaves!" (Goujats!):

Not long ago, the Germans sent 50 of their wounded soldiers to the Convent of the sisters of Sainte-Chrétienne in Chimay. The nuns took every care of the patients, but in Chimay—as elsewhere in Belgium—bread was but scantily distributed by the conquerors and after a few days there was none to be had. The nuns' store had come to an end. How were they to nourish the patients confided to their care?

The Mother superior having taken council with the other sisters, decided to go to the Kommandantur and request there a supply of this necessary food.

The brave nun was received in the salon of an ancient castle, where the German officers—surrounded by their wives—regarded her with mocking glances. A major asked her of the object of her visit in an insolent tone.

"I came to ask for bread for your wounded."

"Eh? Are the inhabitants not able to supply food for 50 soldiers?"

"They have no bread to eat themselves; how could we expect them to give us any?"

Stretching out her hand, the nun said "Herr Major, it is easy for you to give me a bon."

The officer looked at the pleading nun for a few minutes, then with an insinuating glance at the women surrounding him and a laugh in which all the vulgarity of his "Kultur" is displayed, he spits into the outstretched hand.

Without wincing, the nun takes her pocket-handkerchief and drying her hands says with a smile: "That was for me, Sir, but now I plead for your wounded," and she stretches out her other hand . . . .

We must see what the superior of the sisters of Sainte-Chrétienne says to this shameless touching story. She writes to the German authorities on 30th July 1915 as follows:

"Under the heading Knaves an article has appeared in which it is stated that the mother superior of the sisters of Sainte-Chrétienne in Chimay paid a visit to the Kommandantur, during the course of which she was treated with shameful rudeness. The mother superior of her own free will and owing to her respect for the truth assures the public that this alleged visit and conversation at the Kommandantur are pure inventions. She adds that during the 10 months that the hospital exists, the relations with the wounded and the officers at the Kommandantur have always been the best possible.

This declaration has been made on oath.

S. Marie Hippolyte,

Mother Superior of the Institution of Sainte-Chrétienne.

"Sous le titre: Goujats, il a paru un article où la Supérieure des sœurs de St-Chrétienne de Chimay est censée faire une démarche à la Kommandantur, démarche au cours de laquelle, elle aurait été accueillie avec grossièreté. La Supérieure affirme librement par respect de la vérité que cette prétendue démarche et le dialogue supposé à la Kommandantur sont de pure invention. Elle ajoute que durant les dix mois de séjour du Lazarett, les rapports avec les blessés et les officiers de la Kommandantur ont toujours été d'une parfaite convenance.

Cette déclaration est faite sous la foi d'un serment.

S. Marie Hippolyte,  
Supérieure du Pensionnat de St-Chrétienne."

## Favourable Development of Goods' Traffic in Germany.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" writes:

With the exception of the magnificent subscriptions to the War Loan and the favourable closing results of the Reichsbank, there is hardly anything which allows such certain conclusions to be drawn as to the satisfactory state of our entire industrial life as the continuous increase of the receipts of the Prussian State Railways Goods' Traffic. These returns have unfortunately not been published since the outbreak of the war, because they have been influenced by military transports to a certain extent and the enemy must be given no facilities for drawing conclusions therefrom. We have however learned from a competent source that the development has been most favourable, the receipts from goods' traffic since the re-opening of same almost approaching that of the foregoing year of peace. In July 1915, they even exceeded the returns of July 1914 by 2.80 %. Thus the highest July record ever achieved by the Prussian State Railways has been exceeded. On an average, the months April-July 1915 show returns from goods' traffic that are but 1.98 % less than those of the same month in the preceding year. The returns of military traffic were included in the July receipt with but 7.39 %. The August returns have not yet been calculated.

One is obliged to ask oneself how it is possible that goods' traffic could attain such a height, as such a large number of the most capable workmen has been called to the colours. The explanation for this can be found in the fact that industrial life has produced all available reserves and that all employed exert their utmost strength. Not only old men and youths, but a large number of women are now actively employed in industrial branches to which they hardly dared aspire in former times. The view however, which the above numbers allow us to take of the favourable situation of our entire industrial life, strengthens our confidence in the final victory of our just cause.

## Experiences in English Captivity.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" writes:

A German officer, Oberleutnant von N., who has returned from England as an "exchange prisoner" has given the following description of his experiences during the time of his captivity, on oath:

On 8th September 1914, I was severely wounded in the battle of Orly on the Marne. The bullet which was an infantry one, penetrated my head under the right eye and remained there. Covered with blood and very weak, I was unlucky enough to fall into the hands of the English, who took me prisoner with several others.

The English treatment at first was good. On the following day I was searched by an English subofficer for arms. He removed my pocket knife and a nail scissors, leaving me all the rest of my things. Shortly after, however, an English soldier belonging to the A.S.C. took my money amounting to more than 500 Marks, my watch and chain and signet ring, as well as other things, and with a grin he informed me that he intended to keep them as "a souvenir." Owing to my wound, I could neither offer any resistance nor call for help. I was so weak that I lay half stunned. The English took advantage of this and took all they could, only leaving me a dirty French peasant's shirt, which they had thrown over me and an overcoat belonging to a German soldier. In this way I was transported to France, having to go from one railway train to the other with bare legs and suffering greatly from this incredible treatment. I travelled for four days in this manner until on 13th September I arrived at St. Nazaire, where I was operated by Australian doctors. They removed the bullet from the back of my head.

On 17th September, I was brought to a ship and removed to England, arriving at Portsmouth on 20th September, where I was brought to a hospital. There a captured German military doctor H. discovered that my wound, which the English had sown up at once, had begun to fester owing to the bad treatment accorded me. He acquainted the English doctors with this fact, but it was only after continued representations that they resolved to open the festering wounds and accord me suitable treatment. I owe my life to the intervention of the German doctor and the support which the other German medical men gave him. As far as I could judge, the sanitary conditions in the hospital left much to be desired. On 11th December I was removed to the ship "Scotian" where there were about 1,500 prisoners of war and which lay alongside the ships "Lake Manitoba" and "Ascania," on which there were other prisoners, mostly civilians. The conditions of the ship were absolutely unworthy from a humane point of view. The food was very scanty and unsavoury, and most unsuitable for invalids. The one English doctor, who was to look after us all, was altogether inadequate.



The task was obviously too much for him and for this reason he did nothing. A German military assistant doctor did his best for us. On our sending a complaint, an English Committee came on board and ascertained that the conditions were not suitable for invalids. That coincided perfectly with the expressions of the English military doctor, who had repeatedly told us that the ships were lying at a most unhealthy spot. The Committee of Investigation, who had discovered that we were being cheated in the ration supply, made arrangements for the severely wounded to be removed from the ship, as there were many among them that had been brought from the ship to the hospitals in spite of their critical condition, owing to the fact that the hospitals were overcrowded.

On 22nd December I was brought to Holyport. Conditions there were good, owing to the fact that the English only kept guard on us and we German prisoners of war were allowed to cater for ourselves. There we had a German officer, who as commander of the prisoners, looked after our interests. There we had another example of how far superior German organisation is to English.

In Holyport I learned from several German officer prisoners that they had found dum-dum bullets in English rifles and cartridge cases. I must here remark that some of the English guards in the course of conversation later on, told me that they had a device on their rifles something like a cigar cutter, with which they could turn all bullets into dum-dum bullets.

In Holyport I also heard that the English in many cases had taken German passengers from neutral ships, even those who had proved that they had left American or other harbours before the outbreak of hostilities, and that these people had almost all been interned, many among them being absolutely unfitted for military service, invalids who were coming to Europe for medical treatment etc., those suffering from liver, kidney and tropical diseases. The illegal capture of these poor people by the English has greatly harmed them in many cases. I must include the name of the Reserveleutnant Sp., who in spite of having an arm that had not been well set after an accident and had remained crooked as a consequence, was taken from a neutral ship, brought first to Gibraltar and then to England, although he is unsuited for military purposes. Among the Germans captured from neutral ships, were many active and several reserve officers. According to the mood of the camp commander, they were accorded treatment suitable to officers in the one camp, or put together with the men in another. A number of them received their pay, while many others did not, so that several were in very sad circumstances. The two doctors belonging to the German hospital ship "Ophelia" that was captured by the English and taken to an English port, while trying to give assistance, were also in Holyport. At first the English maintained that the

"Ophelia" was employed in laying mines, but as the truth of these statements could not be proved, they then said that it was a signal ship and declared it a prize. The officers belonging to the "Ophelia" were not treated as officers, but sent by the English to one of the men's camps, only the two doctors coming to Holyport.

During the time of my stay there, there were also a number of Germans from Cameroon, who complained bitterly of the English conduct. They had been hunted together without sufficient clothes, taken to the coast where they were obliged to march for days under the burning sun, without any refreshment, guarded by black soldiers, who behaved brutally towards the Germans, especially the women, under English toleration, and there embarked on a steamer for England. In the meantime the English had plundered the German settlements, destroying some of their books and giving the others to foreign rivals. Owing to this, many of the German merchants were destroyed financially, German officials and others suffering great losses. Those who came from Cameroon, complained bitterly of the terrible conditions on the steamers, the bad food, the dirt and the disgusting way in which they were obliged to use the same vessels for washing—their food—and as night utensils, the situation of the W.C. on one of the steamers, where in the case of a strong wind the entire filth was blown over the steamer and into the kitchen. Many of them suffered greatly on account of the sudden change of climate.

On 29th April, I came to Donington Hall. There the food was bad and scanty, the Army and Navy Stores which had undertaken the catering, apparently making huge profits. Conditions altogether were less agreeable than in Holyport. Quite insufficient W.C's were erected on the principal walk and to our great astonishment that in the house was closed for "sanitary reasons."

There I learned from a German naval officer that an English ship had escaped an English submarine, owing to its having hoisted the Argentine flag.

Furthermore, I heard in captivity there from German officers that the English in the false idea that the Bavarian troops did not make any English prisoners, cooled their rage on the captured Bavarians. In the vicinity of St. Omer, they are said to have asked German prisoners as to who were Bavarians. The Bavarians who reported themselves, were led off and nothing has been heard of them since. That these tales of treacherous murder of prisoners of war are not soldiers' gossip, is shown by the following. I myself heard from a German officer, with whom I was together in English captivity that an English officer made a gesture designating him to English soldiers that were employed in guarding the German prisoners, the officer then turned away and an English soldier made a thrust at him with the bayonet. The German officer only escaped death by a sudden side movement so that the bayonet only pene-

trated his shoulder and breast and he had sufficient presence of mind to throw himself on the ground as if dead. The affair took place in March at Neuve Chapelle. I saw the hole in his overcoat caused by the bayonet and the scar on the breast of the officer, who gave me this account of the violation of the rules of war-fare. On 26th July I came to London and was sent from there to Germany as one of the "exchange prisoners."

## The Battle of Anaforta.

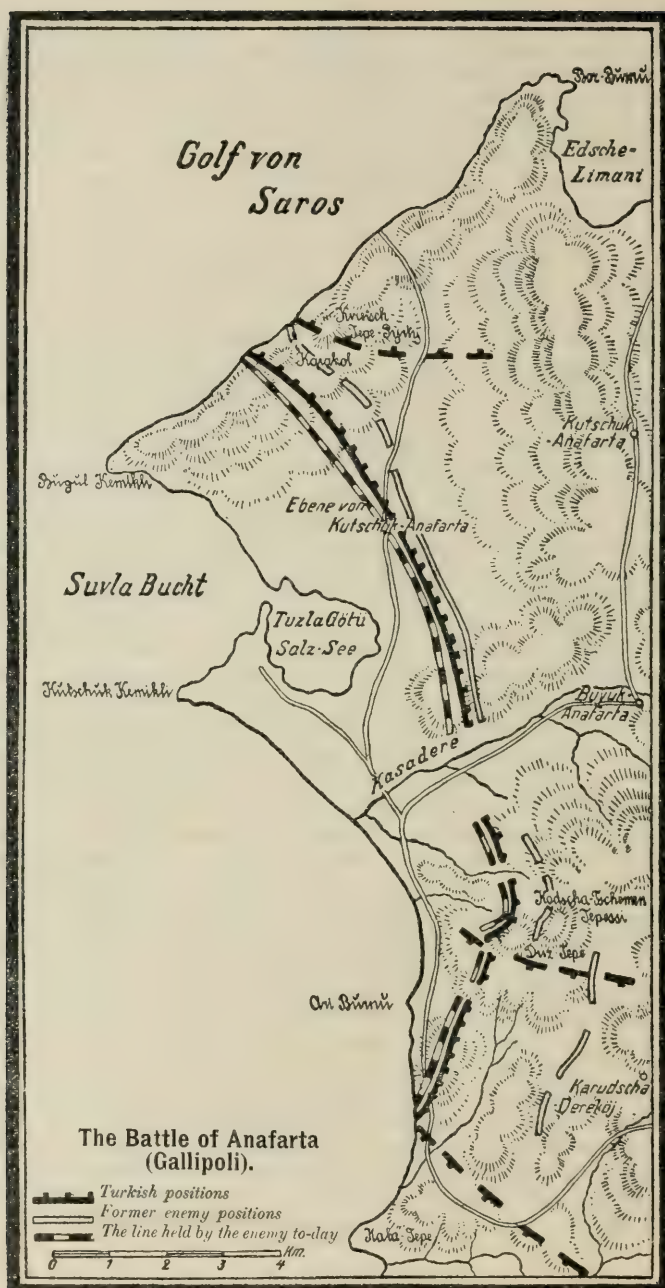
The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" writes:

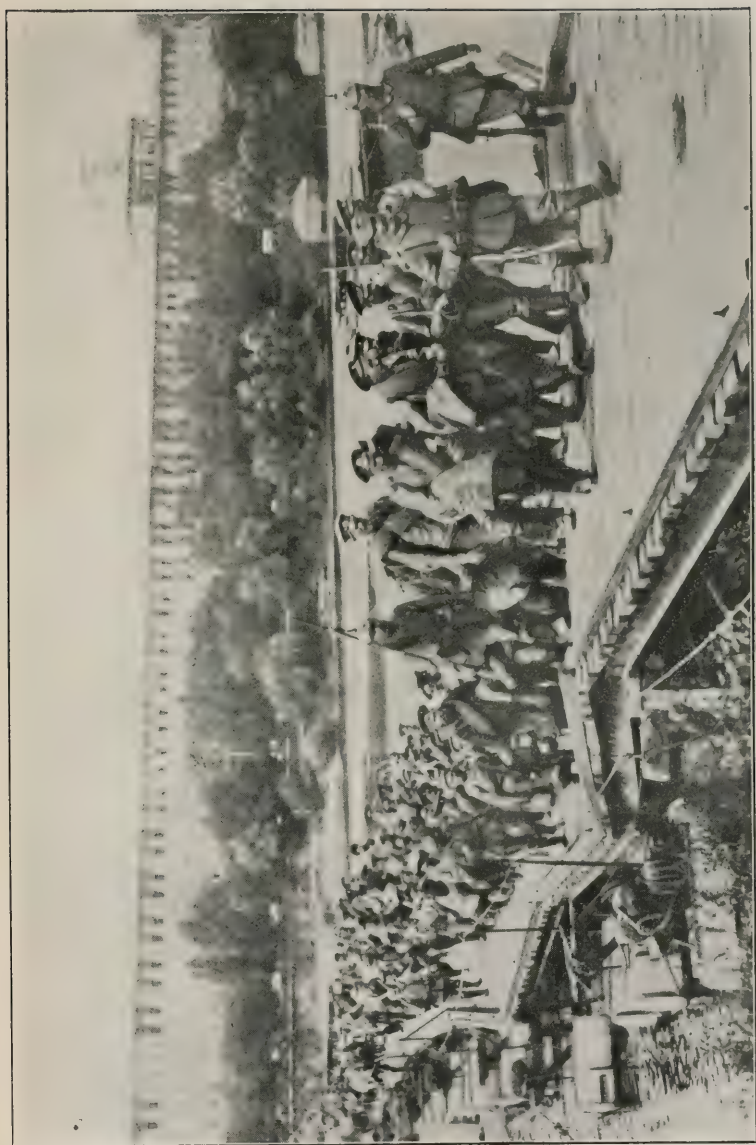
The fighting that took place at Anaforta Bay and at Ari Burun on 28th and 29th August, the result of which is shown by our map that has been passed as correct by the Turkish General Staff, can be reckoned as one of the bloodiest battles of the whole Dardanelles campaign, which during the past 6 months has demanded such sacrifices of human life and young blood. Weeks and months before, artillery fighting and smaller engagements between the men on both sides, whose entrenchments at some points were but 30—50 metres distant from one another, had been going on every day, but on the evening of 28th August the conflict became incredibly bitter and violent lasting throughout the whole night. As soon as night fell, and the Turkish soldiers knew that owing to the darkness the ships' guns could not take such good aim, they proceeded to a storm attack, thereby making free use of their favourite weapon, the bayonet and with incomparable bravery and contempt of death neither allowing themselves to be withheld by wire obstacles or other impediments, nor by the hand-grenades, which were showered on them, working dreadful destruction in their lines.

The working battalions followed the storming troops closely and where the bayonets and butts had made a way, new trenches were thrown up at once, cover being sought and all other measures taken to ensure and assist the defence of the newly captured position, so that when morning dawned, the enemy learned to his horror that he had been considerably repulsed along the whole line and that he had lost three to five hundred, at one point even a thousand metres of ground and that the Turkish troops had taken a firm footing in the captured positions.

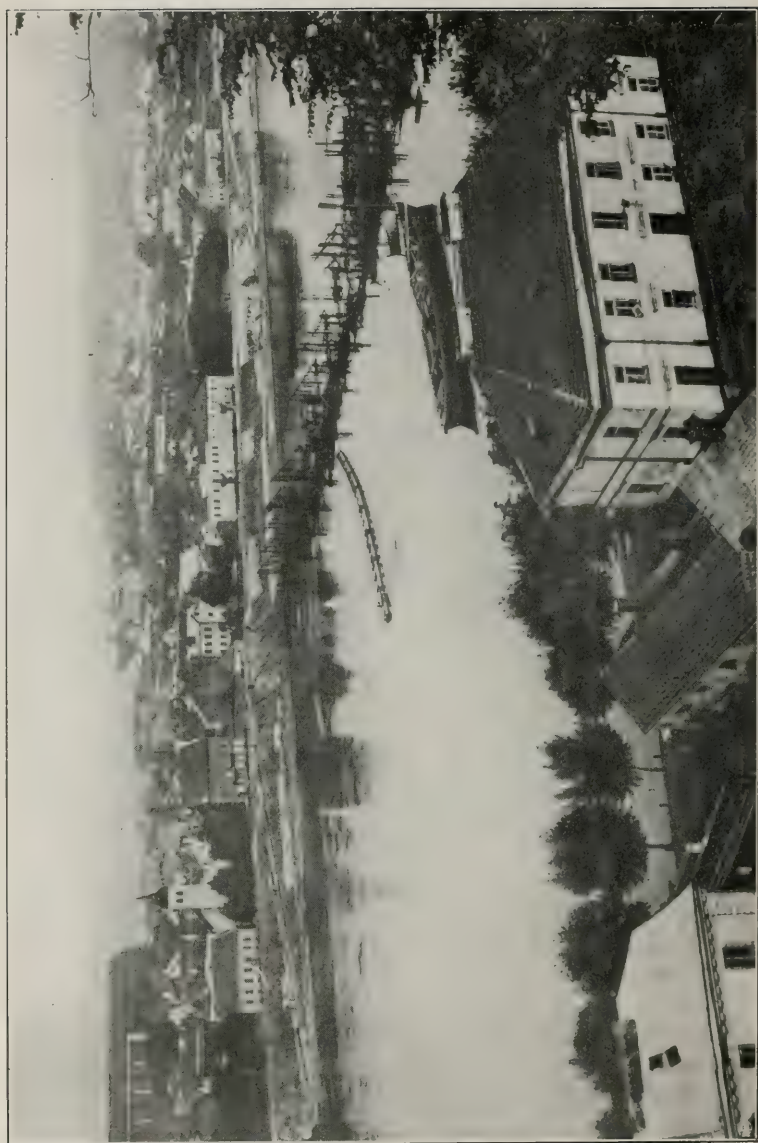
The heavy ships' guns were again brought into action and for hours destructive showers of iron, shrapnel and grenades, the effects of which were considerable, were poured on the heads of the gallant defenders without forcing them to yield a step, on the contrary, every loss in their ranks but increasing their bitterness. Again and again they pressed forward to attack under the burning rays of the sun, and when on the evening of the second day twilight fell, the





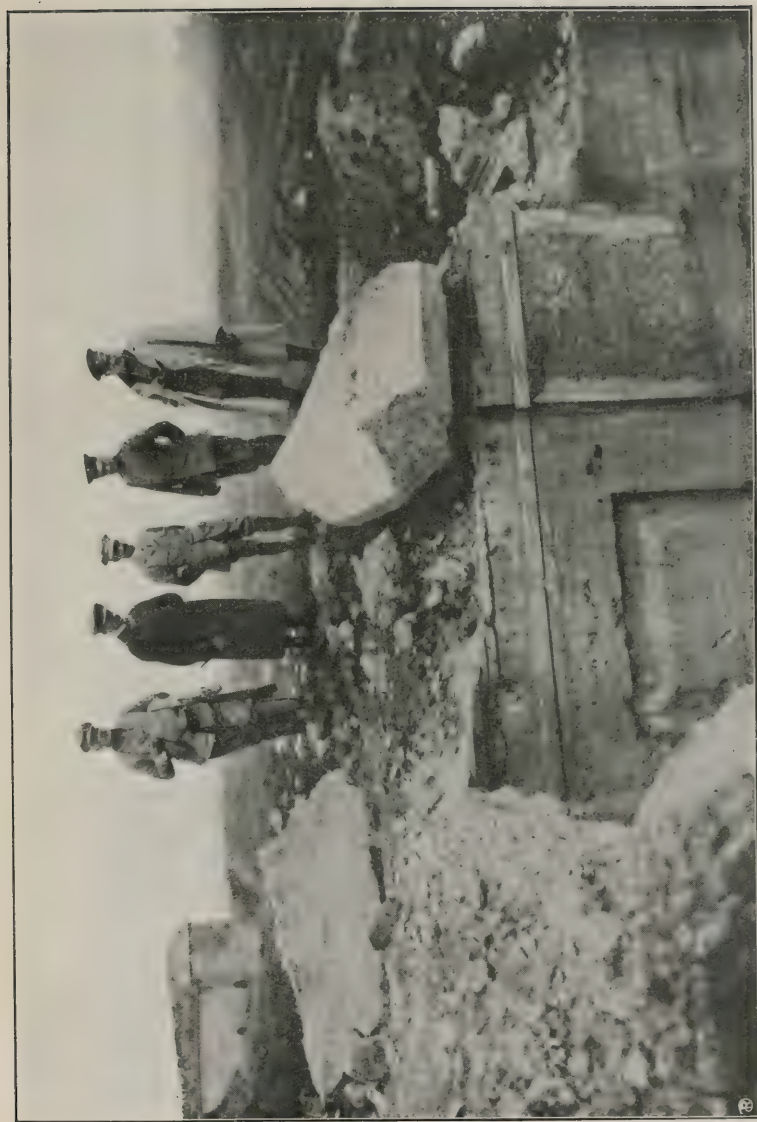


Russian prisoners from the fortress of Nowo-Georgiewsk being transported across the bridge erected by the German pioneers. The Citadel can be seen in the background.

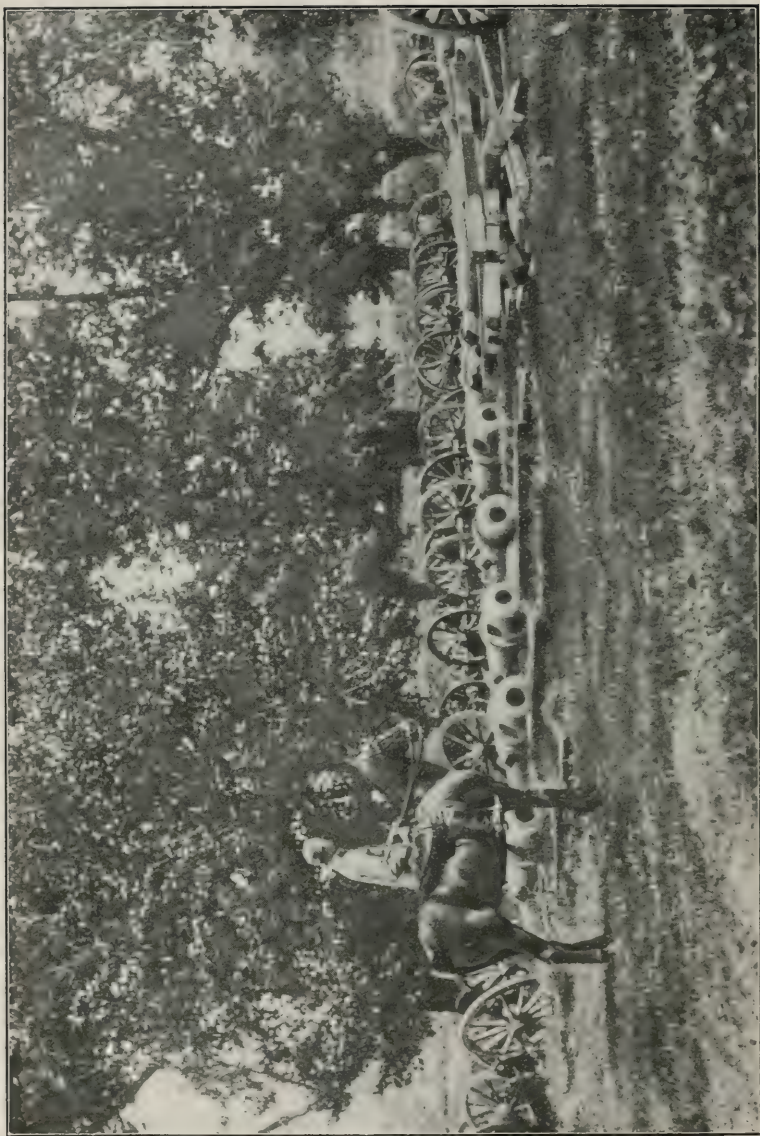


A view of the captured fortress of Kovno with the burned Njemen bridge.

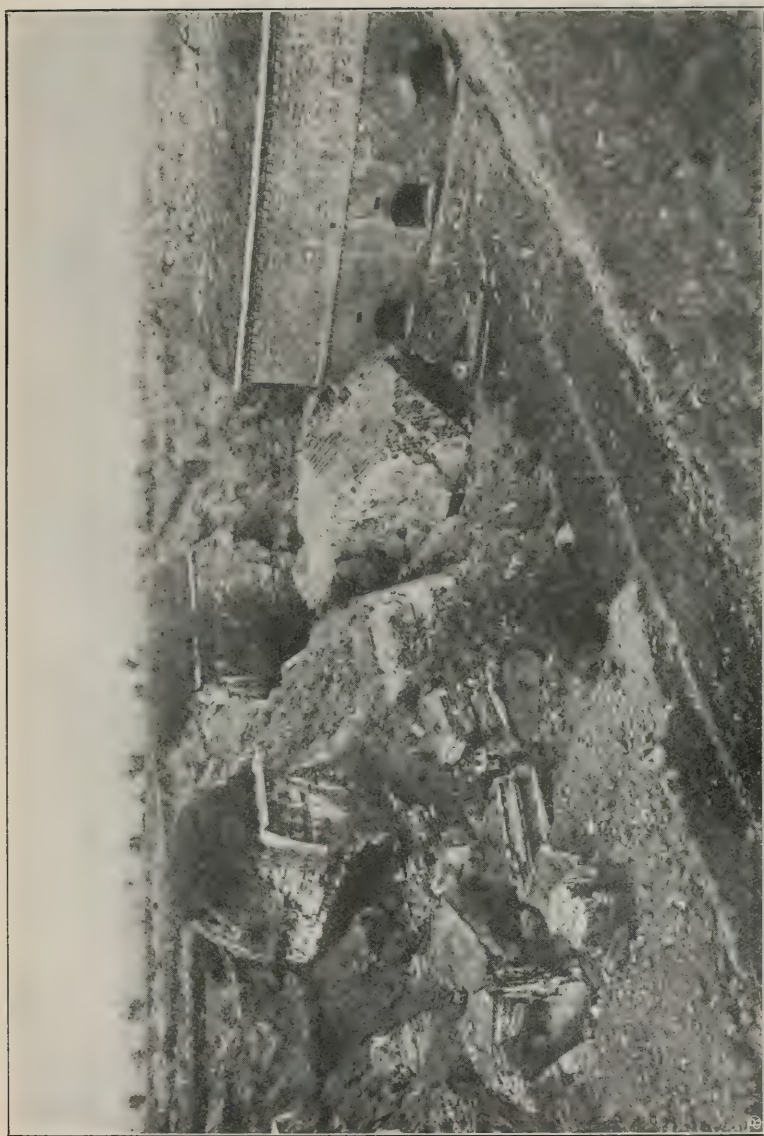




One of the forts of the fortress of Kovno after the shelling of the German artillery and the capture by the German infantry.



The garden of the Citadel of Brest-Litowsk. The guns that were destroyed by the Russians, can be seen in the picture.



Effects worked by the heavy German and Austrian artillery on the fortification works  
of Nowo-Georgiewsk.

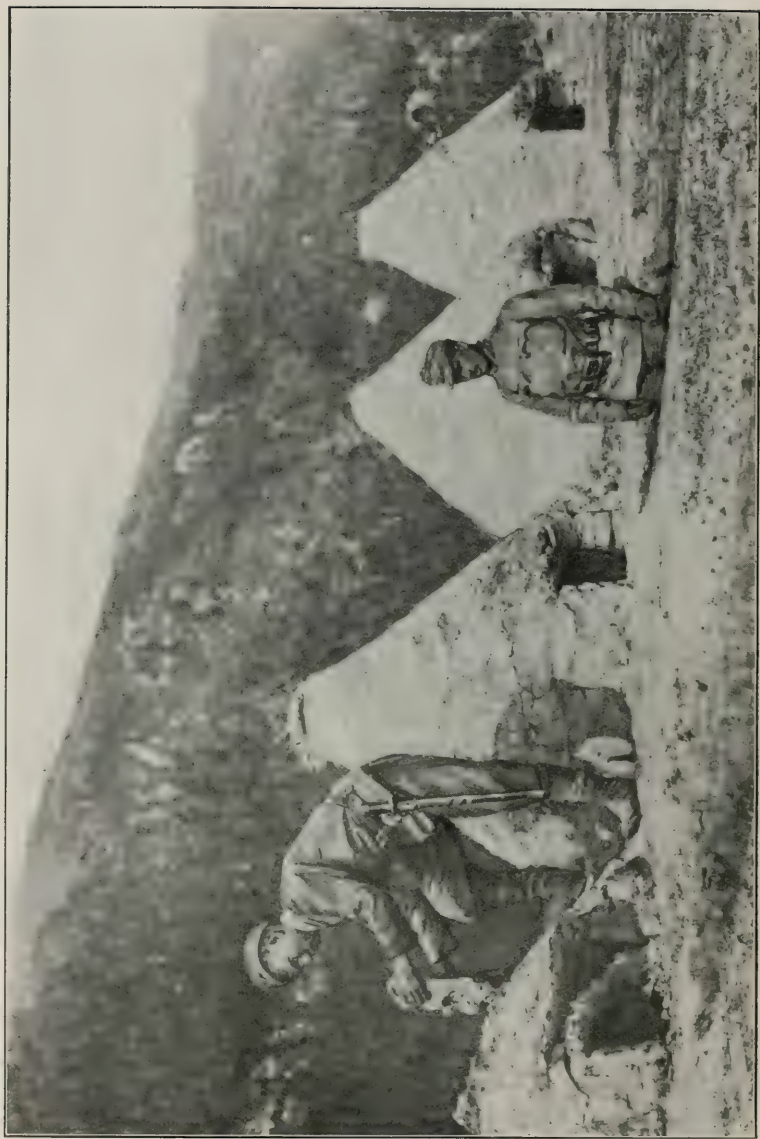




Italian prisoners being transported by Austrians.

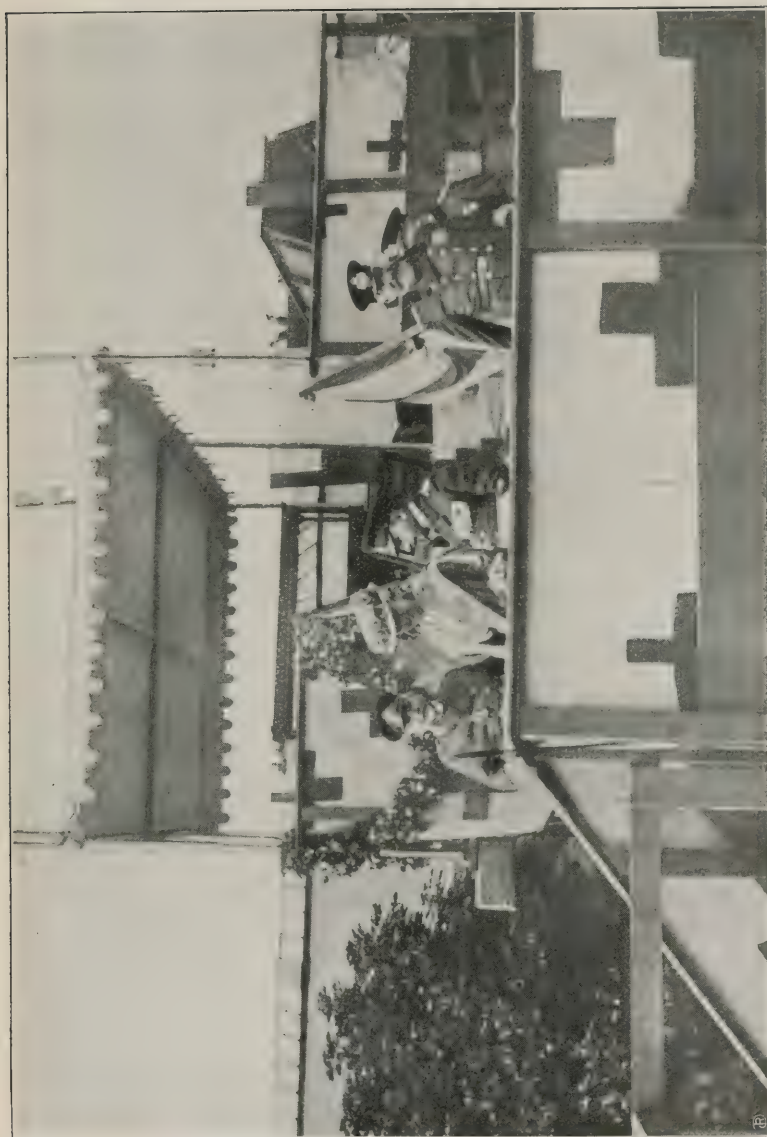


An Austrian mountain battery with machine-guns and ammunition on the march at the Isonzo front.

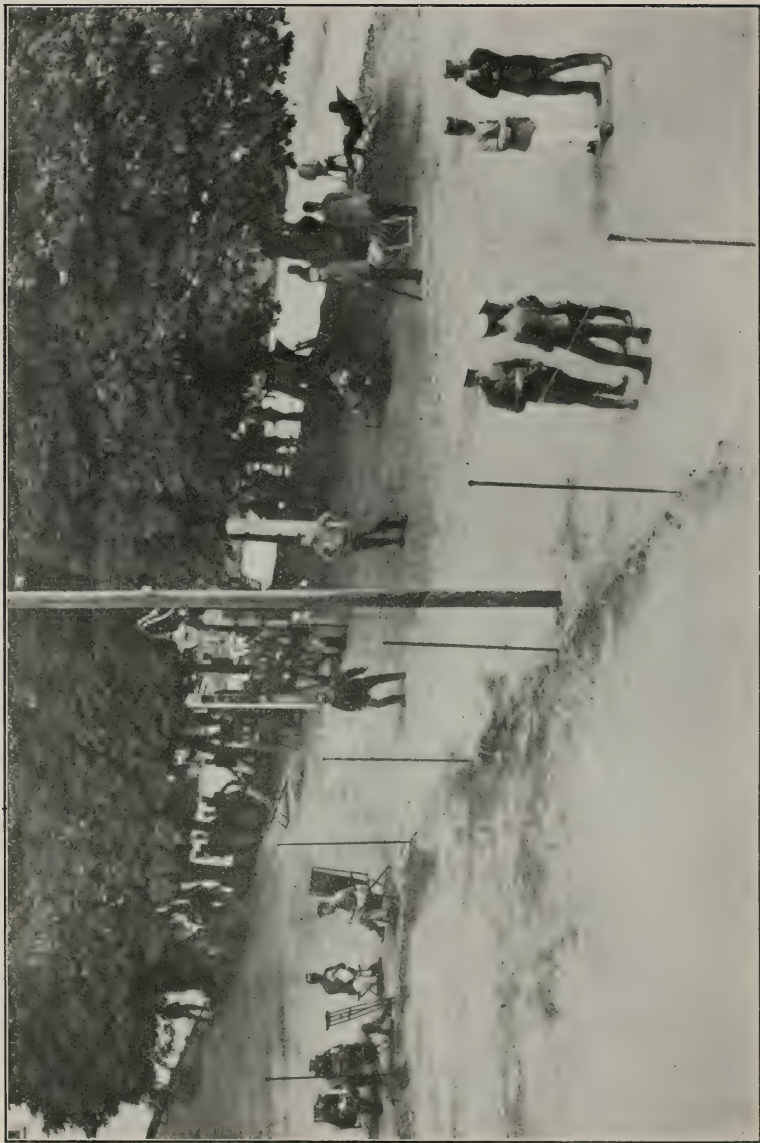


Austrian troops' clay stoves at the Isonzo.





The launching of the large armoured cruiser "Hindenburg." Frau von Hindenburg can be seen on the platform.

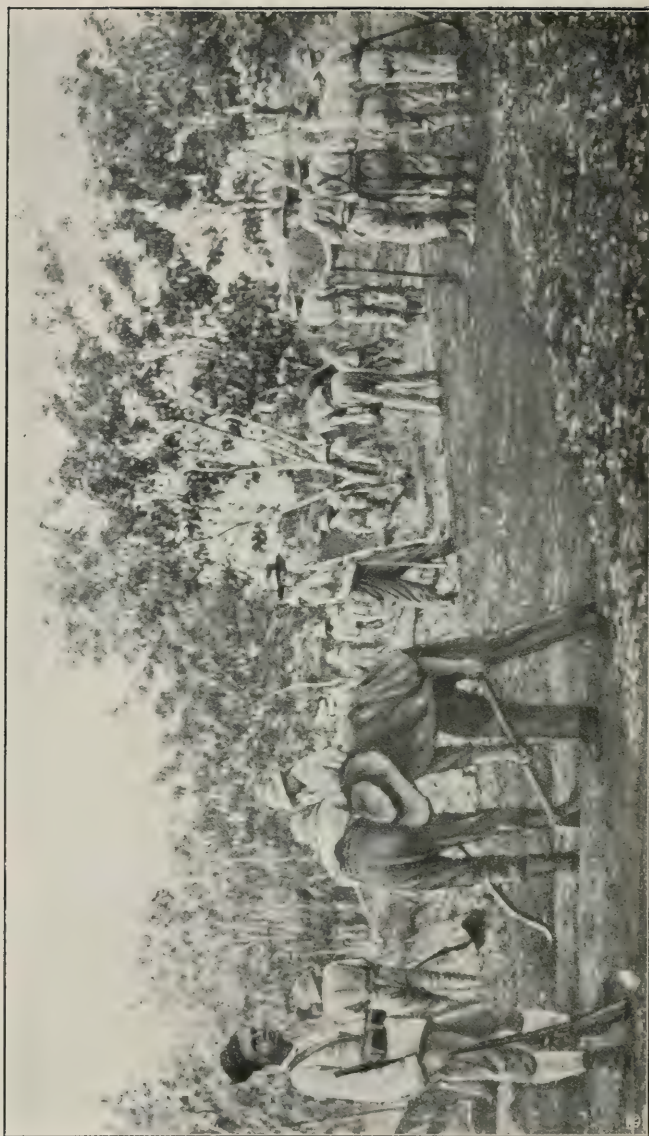


English, French and Russian officer prisoners in the camp garden at Mainz-Castell.



French prisoners in the camp at Königsbrück making music on instruments,  
which they made themselves.





German interned civilians in Dahomey forced to work under control of black soldiers.  
The picture shows the camp at Sakété. It was published in the French newspaper "Illustration"  
on 14th August 1915.

battle had been finally decided. Although streams of Turkish blood had dyed the earth of the hotly contested peninsula a deep purple red, although endless lines of carriages trended their way towards Atbaschi, from where the transport ships of the Red Crescent leave for the Capital, still the enemy had been driven back to the secure cover of his ships' guns and 10,000 Englishmen had been forced into the waves of the Aegean Sea. Besides this, numbers of wounded prisoners were taken to Constantinople with the Turkish transports and a large transport of uninjured prisoners was also taken in slow stages, marching during the day-time to the capital so gaily decorated with flags.

# W a r J o u r n a l

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## September 1.

The Lingekopf-Barrenkopf ridge retaken by our troops.

The outside fortress line of the western front of Grodno has fallen. The crossings of the Swislocz occupied. The Muchawiec section crossed on the entire front.

## September 2.

The fortified bridge-head of Lemnewaden to the north-west of Friedrichstadt taken by storm. Russian attacks were repulsed west of Wilna, the town of Grodno occupied.

## September 3.

The bridge-head of Friedrichstadt taken by storm. The fortress of Grodno and all the forts in our hands.

## September 4.

The troops commanded by Prince Leopold of Bavaria are fighting and have gained an outlet from the Swampy belt Nowy-duwor. The bridge-head of Bereza-Kartuska captured by the Mackensen troops. The army of General von Bothmer took enemy positions by storm on the western bank of the Sereth.

## September 5.

The Russians continue to retreat in the Ukraine. The Czar relieves the Grand-Duke Nicolaus of his command, which he undertakes himself and goes to the front.

The Admiralty reports that the submarine "U 27" which sank a small older type English cruiser on 10th August, has not returned and must therefore be considered as lost.

## September 6.

The Russians hunted from their positions at Chomsk and Drobiszyn.

## September 7.

Enemy ships shell Ostende and Westende, but retreat owing to our coastal batteries.



### September 8.

German naval airships made a successful night raid on the English East-coast.

The crossing of the Rozanka gained. The fortress of Dubno in Wolhynien taken by the Austrians.

### September 9.

The army commanded by the Crown Prince captured French positions on a front of 2 kilometres and a depth of 300—500 metres, to the north-east of Vieme-le-Château, as well as several points-d'appui, including the work Marie-Thérèse. 30 officers and 1,999 men were taken prisoners, as well as 48 machine-guns, 54 trench-mortars and 1 revolving cannon being captured.

German naval airships dropped bombs on the western part of the city of London, the great factories near Harwich and harbour works and iron works at Middlesborough. The effects were very satisfactory.

### September 10.

After violent fighting, the Hindenburg troops captured Skidel and Niekrasze and took Lawa by storm. 2,700 prisoners were taken. Derazno on the Goryn in the hands of our Allies.

Our naval airships made a successful raid, dropping explosive and incendiary bombs on the Russian naval base of Baltishport.

### September 11.

Successful mining operations carried out in Champagne and the Argonnes.

Our airships were successful in their attempt of dropping bombs on the Docks of London.

The Russian line penetrated on the Celwianka. On both sides of the road from Bereza-Kartuzka and Kossowo-Slonim the enemy was repulsed.

A German submarine sinks two French freight vessels in the Bay of Biscay. A report received that a German submarine has sunk the French steamer "Ville de Mostaganem" in the Mediterranean Sea on the Algerian Coast.

### September 12.

Our troops have reached the Wilna-Dunaburg-Petersburg railway line at several points. More than 3,000 prisoners taken.

### September 13.

More than 5,000 prisoners were taken on the section between the Düna and the Wilja in the course of our advance. The Russians repulsed at Dubno and at the Stubieli section, suffering very heavy casualties.

### September 14.

A French attempt to attack at the Hartmannsweilerkopf, was prevented.

The Russians forced back across the Szczara.

### September 15.

Our troops continue to advance on Jacobstadt. At Liewenhof, the Russians are forced back to the eastern bank of the Düna. The town of Pinsk and the territory between Pripjet and Jasiolda in the hands of the Germans.

A German submarine penetrates the Black Sea and worries the shipping from Odessa.

### September 16.

Our troops reach the Widsy-Goduzoschki-Komai road to the south of Dünaburg.

Strong Italian attacks on the Monte Coston repulsed.

### September 17.

German air-craft attacks enemy ships off Dunkirk.

The town of Widsy occupied after a violent hand-to-hand fighting. Between Wilna and Njemen, the Russian front is penetrated at various points, more than 5,000 prisoners being taken.

The booty captured at Nowo-Georgiewsk, which has now been calculated is reported to amount to 1,640 guns, 23,219 rifles, 163 machine-guns, 160,000 rounds of artillery ammunition and 7,098,000 cartridges. The number of guns captured at Kowno has increased to 1,301.

### September 18.

The army group of Marshal von Hindenburg achieved a complete success in its extensive attack, carried out by the army of General von Eichhorn against the strongly fortified town of Vilna, which fell into our hands. The army group of Marshal von Mackensen has reached the Visliza to the north of Pinsk and is crossing the Strumen to the south of the town.

### September 19.

Hostile ships shelled Westend and Middlekerke without achieving any success.

German artillery engaged in battle with Serbian positions south of the Danube near Semendria. Belgrade taken under fire by our allies.

The Turks disperse hostile troops in the vicinity of Anaforta.

### September 20.

The right wing of the army group von Hindenburg after rear-guard battles reached the territory east of Lida to the west of Nowo Grodek. A passage across the Molchadka near and south of Dvoretz has been forced by the troops commanded by Prince Leopold of Bavaria.

### September 21.

French attacks at Souchez and Neuville collapsed.

The army group Marshal von Hindenburg penetrated the Russian positions east of Sacelina on a breadth of 3 kilometres, taking 2,000 prisoners.

The army group commanded by Prince Leopold of Bavaria succeeded in taking Russian positions by storm on both sides of the Brest-Litowsk-Minsk railway.

### September 22.

The troops belonging to the army group von Hindenburg succeed in penetrating advanced enemy positions to the west of Dunaburg. The Russian resistance on the Oschnjana-Subotniki line has been broken.

### September 23.

An English attack south of the La Bassée Canal repulsed.

The army group Prince Leopold of Bavaria breaks the Russian resistance along the entire front.

Fresh Turkish successes reported from Anaforta.

### September 24.

On the entire western front from the North Sea to the Vosges increased artillery activity is reported and the commencement of an enemy offensive.



The troops commanded by Prince Leopold of Bavaria take the town of Negniewitschi by storm.

The result of the third German War Loan published as being 12 Millions 30 million Marks.

In Bulgaria and Greece general mobilization orders issued.

### September 25.

The Anglo-French offensive continued without achieving any important results. English ships made an attack on Zeebrügge, but withdrew on one ship having been sunk and two damaged. The enemy suffered enormous casualties in the Ypres section. South-west of Lille, in the vicinity of Loos, one of our Divisions was forced to retire to the second line of defence, we evacuated Souchez according to pre-arranged plans. We took 1,200 prisoners including an English Brigadier General. Between Reims and Argonnes another of our Divisions was forced to retire to the second position, still all the efforts at penetrating that were made by the enemy, can be considered as foiled, their casualties being enormously high; we took 3,750 French prisoners.

North-west of Saberesina, the Russians forced back across the Beresina. The strong Russian offensive in eastern Galicia brought to a standstill by Austrian troops at Nowo-Aleksiniec.

The Italian Minister of Marine retires.

### September 26.

To the south-west of Lille, the great enemy offensive brought to a standstill by means of counter-attacks.

Near Souchez and Arras, all enemy attacks repulsed. The French offensive between Reims and the Argonnes did not make any further progress; the number of prisoners has increased to 3,900. Five enemy air-machines shot down.

German airmen made a raid on the Russian fleet in the Bay of Riga and damaged one of the battleships. To the west of Dunaburg, the troops under the command of Fieldmarshal von Hindenburg captured another Russian position, while the troops under the command of Prince Leopold of Bavaria cleared the western bank of the Njemen of the enemy.

### September 27.

The English undertook a fresh gas-attack, which passed off without any serious results; the entire number of prisoners has increased to 3,397.

French attacks repulsed in the vicinity of Souchez. Roelincourt, Angres and in the Champagne.

The results achieved by the troops commanded by General von Eichhorn during the course of the fighting at Wilna, amount to: 21,978 men, 3 guns, 71 machine-guns and large quantities of baggage. An enemy position to the north-east of Wischniew penetrated; 3,300 prisoners taken. The troops commanded by Prince Leopold of Bavaria stormed the bridge-head to the east of Baranowitschi. The troops commanded by General von Linsingen forced a passage across the Styr below Luck. The Russians are in full retreat along the entire front north of Dubno.

### September 28.

The enemy attacks in the west and attempts to penetrate our lines continue, fighting being very bitter. Violent English attacks operating from Loos and bitter French attacks in the vicinity of Souchez-Neuville and in the Champagne collapsed, the enemy suffering very heavy losses. Renewed storm attacks directed against the heights of Massiges, were fruitless, the French suffering enormous casualties.

The army group von Hindenburg has advanced as far as the heights of Lake Swente.

The Italian battleship "Benedetto Brin" blown up by an explosion in Brindisi harbour.

### September 29.

Violent and bitter fighting still in progress between Rheims and the Argonnes. To the south of St. Marie à Py, an enemy brigade broke through the front trenches, our troops made a counter-attack taking 800 prisoners, while the rest were annihilated. French attacks between the Somme Py and Souain road and the Challerange-St. Ménehould railway line failed with very heavy enemy losses.

To the east of Smorgon, an enemy position penetrated by means of an assault; 1,000 prisoners, 6 guns and 4 machine-guns have been captured. The Russians are being pressed back in an easterly direction on the Upper Kormin.

### September 30.

Enemy monitors shell Middelkerke without achieving any result. Counter-attacks undertaken in the neighbourhood of Loos made progress in spite of violent enemy opposition. Strong French attacks

in the Champagne to the east of Aubérive and north-west of Massiges fail. Up to this we took 104 officers and 7,019 men prisoners during the course of the fighting in Champagne.

To the west of Dinaburg, the troops commanded by Field-marshal von Hindenburg stormed another enemy position.

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The September booty of the German troops in the east amounts to: 95,885 prisoners, 37 guns, 298 machine-guns and 1 air-machine.



# German Soldiers' Letters

published in the press by the Soldiers' parents and relations.

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## 1. From the Western Theatre of War.

### The Destruction of the Churches in Flanders.

As a constant reader of your "Tremonia" I find an article dated 19th July under the heading "Bandrillart in Flanders" where the writer describes how the churches in Flanders were ravaged. If the writer does not lie himself, he can only have the lies from others. For it is not the Germans but the English and French, who destroy not only churches, but also private property, which I can confirm having been an eye-witness. The church of Lange-marck has been completely destroyed owing to French and English shells and shrapnels, as is proved by the many holes in the walls. The church of Poelcappelle has also been partly destroyed, the tabernacle in the high altar being found broken open on the German entry. Crucifixes or holy pictures were not found in any houses of the above named places, everything had been destroyed by the "pious" French and English, the clergymens' vestments having been torn and stamped on and treated in an incredible manner. Quite the contrary can be said of the churches and places where our troops have been lying since last October. Owing to the fact that the churches of Clerken, Merckem and Woummen have been constantly kept under the enemy fire, although not containing observation posts, the German army administration had the said churches cleared. The valuable Mass utensils being sent (as in Clerken) to the nuns in the Convent, as they are still there, the clergyman having fled. In Merckem they were handed over to the resident clergyman and in Weremen also given to the clergyman of Woummen. As the said churches are kept under fire every day and the contents of same doomed to destruction unless they are brought to some place of safety, I called the attention of Leutnant Hansa and the Regierungsbaumeister Lübbert to the damage which would ensue if these things were destroyed and consequently the contents of the churches of Woummen, the Parish Church of Merckem and the Cloister of Merckem were collected and forwarded from Houthoulst to the Kommandantur in Tourhout.

The Kommandantur provided soldiers and the necessary carts and commanded the Pfarrer of Woummen to come to the railway station where I gave over all the church property to him, for which he gave me a receipt. Furthermore, the registry office books in

so far as they have not been destroyed by the enemy, have been saved by the Mayors of Clerken, Merckem and Woummen and by order of the Generalkommando have been handed over to the Mayor of Woummen, who is a resident of Tourhout. Our troops have been stationed since September last year in the neighbourhood of Bixschoote and Dixmuiden, but our soldiers still have so much piety that they have always respected the religious pictures and crucifixes in the houses, in which they lie or have lain, which is proved by the fact that they are still to be found there intact. In spite of the fact that in many of our regiments the majority of our men are protestants, this respect for religious pictures is nevertheless to be found; forsooth, a pleasing contrast, as compared to the actions of the "pious" French and English troops. The church of Bixschoote is still kept under fire every day, although it is but a heap of ruins; likewise the churches of Merckem and Woummen. In Ersen the foundation stones of the church and the walls of the tower are still standing, but the roofs and steeple will all the contents have been burnt, as the place was set on fire by English and Belgian shells. The pretty little town of Dixmuiden with its beautiful church and cloister has been reduced to a heap of ruins, the church having been first divested of all its contents by the English and Belgians, and then shot to ruins. The inhabitants of the place here would never have taken to flight, if the French and English had not solemnly assured them to the effect that: "all inhabitants found by the Germans, would be shot at once." An old man of 72 years of age, whose wife and children have taken to flight and where I have been living since last January, told me this.

*(Tremonia, Dortmund.)*

### **An exciting Fight in the Air.**

On 9th August, the German communiqué reported that a French air-raid had been carried out on Saarbrücken, which did not result in any military damage, but caused a regrettable loss of life. According to the French report, 28 of the 32 air-machines have returned, having dropped 164 bombs, that is 6 from each machine. Four of the air-machines are, according to a later report stated to be missing. One was forced to land in Switzerland, where it was interned; one was shot down on the Upper-Rhine, and two by our anti-aircraft detachments in Lothringen. The Berlin pamphlet "Der Flugsport" publishes a vivid description, from which we have taken the following:

On 9th August at 5-50 a.m., our baloon anti-aircraft was alarmed. In a few moments the men were at their guns awaiting the 20 hostile air-machines that were reported to be approaching. Unfortunately they had taken another course to reach their goal, the outrageous work of shelling open towns. Whether they sue-

ceeded or not, we are unaware, but if their expedition was crowned with success, some of the airmen must have paid a high price for same. Towards 9 o'clock, one of the enemy airmen could be seen on the horizon, wending his way back to France. A short time before, one of our aircraft officers had mounted in a military monoplane and flown to the frontier so that we could just see him. In the meantime, the Frenchman came within range of our guns and was promptly taken under fire. The monoplane's attention having been attracted by our shooting, he changed his course, returning at great speed to make a dash at the Frenchman. Owing to our own airman being so near, we ceased fire and now were able to witness a most exciting fight in the air. Our skilful monoplane, equipped with a machine-gun, gains on the Frenchman by making a reckless ascent and bringing his machine-gun into action; but the Frenchman with magnificent manœuvres and curves manages to evade him and bring his own gun into action. The fight goes on in this way until our monoplane has ascended to about 400 metres above the Frenchman, then rushes past him in a steep gliding flight, sending over a few well-aimed shots so as to render him harmless. The Frenchman tries to make a skilful curve at the last moment when he is overtaken by his fate. An enormous flame is seen to dart up, while a thick, black column of smoke hides the machine from our view for a few moments, then it is suddenly seen to emerge underneath the cloud of smoke, on fire and falling slowly. In a few moments, the planes catch fire, clap together and the machine crashes with the pilot, who is probably dead, into the fish-pond of Gondrexange. A magnificently gruesome spectacle: Up above the circling machine that had been victorious, proud as an eagle and beneath it the burning hostile machine falling to the earth with its dead pilot, when suddenly a second machine also on the return journey approaches. We had hardly opened fire on this, when we had to cease again, as our military by-plane had come quite near the French machine and taken up the fight. Here too the conflict continued some time until a second German by-plane came to the first man's support. In spite of this, the French pilot was successful in considerably approaching the French position. It was only here that our airmen were able to take good aim and a spray of Benzin showed that the tank had been hit, the inmates making signs and calling out to cease fire, showed that something else was not in order. On hearing the Frenchmen's cries, our airmen also ceased fire from humane motives, but when the French attempted to escape to their own position, their fate was sealed. The machine-guns that were at once brought to bear upon the machine, fatally hitting pilot and observer, while the machine overturned and crashed to the ground.

*(Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung.)*

## Hindenburg's Ghost.

The following amusing little episode is an extract from a field-letter from Flanders:

Three days ago, on taking up our position once more in our charming and agreeable Flemish entrenchments, we suddenly got orders to open fire on an enemy airman who was circling about over our heads. As this can only be done on special orders being given, all the men were most enthusiastic and fired with the utmost zeal. As a consequence of this wild shooting, the French situated opposite us appeared to have got the impression that our trenches were manned stronger than usual. As soon as the rattle had abated somewhat, a large shield was sent up from a French entrenchment on which was written: "You appear to have got reinforcements from Russia, eh?" In a few moments our reply—written on white sandbags—was ready: "Quite right, Hindenburg has arrived with his army!" You should have heard the howling that the French set up: "Quel malheur, quel malheur!" If they only could have seen, how we were laughing in our trenches....

## 2. From the Eastern Theatre of War.

### Our Advance on Riga.

*(From a fieldpost-letter.)*

"The cataleptic trance of the Germans on the Bug . . .," "the almost passive condition exhibited by the enemy for some time past in the Baltic provinces . . ." "these are clear signs of the general state of exhaustion of the German army." Thus it is I read to my great amusement and astonishment in the last numbers of the Riga Zeitung of 13th and 15th July, that were sent to the evangelical clergyman in Tukkum and which he very kindly allowed me to read. The above strategical remarks taken from the only Russian newspaper that appears now in German can be attributed officially to the "Denj" and "Ruski Invalid" and are all the more worthy of attention if I acquaint the readers of these lines, that to-day, on 19th July, four days after the rotation machines have convinced some millions of Russians of the approaching decay of the German forces, I am sitting with our Rhenish battery in Tukkum, which is situated about 78 kilometres from Riga. In giving the readers of the "Kölnische Volkszeitung" a description of the first stage of our advance on the Baltic capital, I do not refer to the entire new military operations, but only wish to describe some personal events and experiences.

It is one of the most magnificent testimonies for the excellent organisation of our methods of warfare that our great blows always



take the enemy completely by surprise. One of the necessary results of this is that the German soldier and subaltern officer only learns in which direction he is going at the hour of starting, some times even after several marching days. In spite of this, a kind of instinct told us at the beginning of July that our days of rest in the magnificent castle of Rodbaren were coming to an end, and in spite of the agreeable hours spent in this little paradise, two hours west of the Windau, still each of the men was glad to think that he could press forward. The battery belonging to our reserve regiment, stood ready in the early morning of 13th July. The captain can place full confidence in his men, horses and guns, who are well equipped for the long and difficult marches that are awaiting us. For we know and are proud of the fact that we must always be right in the front of the first marching and fighting lines. The "flying battery," as we are named by our comrades on account of the speed which we are able to display at long range, has been co-operating for months past, almost exclusively with the cavalry, Curassiers and Ulanen achieving the greatest possible success. Sometimes we are employed as advance guards, sometimes to cover the flanks to the left of the Sea, or for the clearing of large stretches of territory, many kilometres towards the sides. The stretches which we cover at full trot, are unusually long for artillery, but it is nothing extraordinary for us now after having covered a long stretch of territory to gallop up into position with our guns that are drawn by eight horses and send our greetings to the surprised enemy with undesirable promptitude.

This time too we are in front. We rallied at the little town of Hasenpot, which is situated right at the frontier of the scene of operations up to the present. Once more the battery took up its quarters in a large farm, where we received the kind gifts from home and many of them can be packed up for the marching days. Early in the evening all is quiet in the farmyard, every one tries to snatch a few hours of sleep in advance. But midnight has not yet approached when the musical strain of the Prussian sub-officer's voice disturbs the slumbers of the sleepers. The straw begins to rustle, candles are lit, eyes rubbed and in but a few minutes the scene of peace has changed to a most lively activity; the enormous stable containing about a hundred horses, resembles a bee-hive. It is sufficient to say to a trained artillery-man: the yoking has begun.

About midnight we pass through Hasenpot, a place that is remarkably similar to what we would call a small German town. The character of this little town has remained more faithful and ancient by 20 to 30 years, owing to the fact that the Russian Government does not in any way promote the modern developments, which work so inharmoniously on the philister-picture of the little German towns and which are altogether absent here. The long columns advance towards the enemy positions, before us the rows of German cavalry emerge from the shades of night, while behind us the

heavy wheels of the mortars and howitzers rattle over the miserable pavements of the little town. Shortly after dawn, we brought the battery to action for the first time, destroying some houses, in which were enemy patrols, and threw up some trenches. Then the march was continued. We have not yet come in touch with strong enemy forces. What we meet are mostly advanced enemy outposts, who do not present us with any great difficulties. Our guns have done wonders here, saving the accompanying infantry from making many sacrifices and enabling us to take possession of the machine guns, or as the Russian says: the "bullet-spray" (die Kugelspritze) which he has in his possession. Soon we see the first prisoners. They are well-built fellows, excellently equipped with arms, food and clothes. Their first question is whether they will be allowed to write home to their families from Döberitz—they seem to know that name quite well—and they are quite relieved when we answer in the affirmative. When we have covered about 70 kilometres, we again take up our quarters in Groß-Iwanden. The war-scene that stretches out far beyond the extensive territory of this estate towards the north, is that of a powerful picture of fire. On the far horizon a sea of fire rises up, being reflected in the red clouds, while enormous columns of smoke ascend. On enquiry I am told that this has been caused by the burning oil and petroleum tanks at Windau, the Russian harbour-town at the mouth of the same river which during the last weeks separated the German and Russian positions in the north. According to this, the German offensive appears to have taken place concurrently on three main lines, in the north by the action of the fleet on the coast, on our line Hasenpot-Tukkum and along the Keidany-Schaulen-Mitau road.

It was late at night when we went to rest in Iwanden. After 24 hours of continuous exercise, the "Gulasch-Kanone" brings us the first meal, which is increased with milk and eggs. After five hours rest, we advanced again and in a good hour had arrived at Goldingen, a little town similar to Hasenpot. This place was evacuated by the Russians almost without a fight yesterday evening. On one of the main roads we stopped opposite the churchyard at the forsaken priest's house, whose surprisingly large store of bacon and ham will improve our meals for the next few days. The population of these first towns had foolishly taken to flight, apparently on account of the calumnious tales of German atrocities spread by the Russian authorities, so that the places are almost devoid of human beings. On our arrival we saw many vehicles yoked and packed full of the worldly goods belonging to many of these people rolled up in sheets and bright cloths, standing before the houses and farms. When they got news of the German approach, they were seized with panic and took to flight. They are afraid of being murdered and robbed and yet we surprised them with our speedy advance. When they see that nobody wants to harm them and that we even pay for all trifles, such as milk, bread, butter

and eggs, then their fear quickly dissipates and the much feared Prussians, from whom they wished to flee in terror, have hardly been in the place some hours, when the surprised refugees begin to unpack all their belongings and continue their usual daily round.

From Goldingen, we marched for several days without coming across any larger places. The country here is very fertile and many of the Courland nobles have enormous estates here. Thus we advance along the main road, now and then accompanying a cavalry squadron towards the south through magnificent woods and vast wheat, rye, barley and oat fields, which bear a very good harvest this year. The enemy left us this costly harvest with a heavy heart and on our first marches we saw numerous harvest-fields that had to be destroyed or ploughed up by order of the Russian authorities. Thank God that has only been possible to a limited extent. Wandering horses, pigs and sheep can be seen running wild everywhere in the fields, trenches and woods, still, some of the inhabitants return, sitting on their loaded carts and driving sheep and cattle before them. As the Russians had not the time to destroy as much as they would have wished, they concentrated all their powers of destruction on the bridges, which in the meantime have been temporarily replaced with admirable speed by our pioneers. Thus we can cross the Windau by means of a pontoon-bridge to the south of Goldingen. In co-operation with Curassiers and Ulanen we have been told off to clear the territory both sides of the main road in the course of which Russian patrols often fall into our hands.

Thus we advanced without meeting with any great difficulties until at about 15 kilometres distance from the important railway junction of Tukkum we were opposed with obstinate and stubborn resistance.

*(Kölnische Volkszeitung.)*

## A Fieldpost Letter from Warsaw.

Russian Poland, 13th August 1915.

Yesterday we passed through Warsaw. Owing to the admirable work performed by our valiant engineers, one rail as far as the Wiener Bahnhof in the heart of the Polish Capital was ready for traffic 5 days after the capture of the city and a second will soon follow. To-day the first through train Berlin-Warsaw is expected. The Russians did not do very great damage to the lines here. Every now and then a few rails have been torn up and thrown in the ditches, the bridges and viaducts which were luckily not numerous being destroyed. In Warsaw itself, the railway buildings are intact. On leaving the spacious Wiener Bahnhof, we were at once surrounded with the life of a large town. Crowded tram-cars could be seen in long rows, comfortable, elegant cabs

drawn by one or two excellent horses, taxies, motor-cars at the cross-ways, all the shops open, concert halls, cinemas, hotels and restaurants—the police hour here is 11 o'clock—and the streets were crowded just like the Friedrichstraße in Berlin. Street traffic is allowed until midnight. In the town to the left of the Vistula, telephone communication is even permissible, of course under military control. Canalisation, water supply and the lighting of the streets are all in order. The only thing that is missing, is the civil postal system and so that nobody would make the mistake of dropping a letter into a box, the Russians have taken all the letter boxes with them. I did not notice anything of the far-famed rise in prices. The prices here are not higher than in Lodz. In vain also, I looked for the results and destruction, which the Russian artillery and infantry fire was said to have caused from the right bank of the Vistula. A few panes of window-glass and some chimney-pots were the prices paid for this shelling, the object of which was to cover the Russian retreat. At each of the three large bridges, one of the arches is lying in the water, while the pillars are still standing erect, and our columns are meanwhile passing across the large pontoon-bridges, which the German pioneers have laid across the Vistula with their usual skill and speed. How admirably the civilian militia, consisting mostly of better class courteous people, well dressed and bearing a red and white band on their arms see that order is kept, can be seen best in the vicinity of the German Governor's residence and the Kommandantur, where several hundred wait for their permits. The marching columns are taken through side streets by order of the General commanding the IX. Army, so as not to cause any disturbance of the lively business traffic in the main streets. Beggars are not to be seen in the streets, but very elegant and costly ladies' dresses. Altogether people seem to know how to live well in Warsaw and the change of occupation does not seem to have affected it in the least.

The town is rich in magnificent architectural buildings. It is quite worth while to spend a few days here. The numerous refugees with their extraordinary carts piled up with all their belongings, have again gone westwards towards their homes, which many of them had not seen for a full year. In Shyrdow, where we lay in quarters en route we met a number of them.

The Polish newspapers in Warsaw have almost all reappeared, of course under control of the German censor. Astonishment can be read on many faces and much shaking of the heads can be seen when the public now reads the exact opposite of what they had been told hitherto. They do not wish to believe the truth—they can hardly grasp it. A German newspaper, called the "Deutsche Warschauer Zeitung" a counter-piece of the "Deutsche Lodzer Zeitung" appeared on the fifth day after the occupation, for the first time. From what I saw of the population, I got the impression that they were quite content and favourably inclined towards us.



In Praga, however, on the right bank of the Vistula, quite a different picture is to be seen and there are many proofs of the Russian love of destruction. But they did not behave as badly there as in the extensive factory at Shyrdardow, in which 10,000 workmen were employed; the beautiful textiles manufactured there could be seen in all the shop-windows of Warsaw and Lodz. It is painful to see the destruction wrought there. The valuable machinery that has been wilfully destroyed, the only reason for all this being that the factory was worked by German and Austrian capital. The beautiful villas belonging to the directors in the quiet street are standing neglected and forsaken, the Russians having destroyed or carried away most of the furniture. It is really a scene of desolation!

Now we are going on further eastwards. I am sorry that I cannot remain longer in Warsaw, but hope to see it once more. The fatherland is calling me now, I send my hearty greetings to all at home.

### 3. From the Turkish Theatre of War.

#### A German officer's letter from the Dardanelles.

The sun has just set beyond Lemnos, bringing us rest and evening. The artillery fire that had been roaring throughout the entire day, abates, only some single rounds are fired off, and the echo resounds again and again in the hills.

It is time for supper on both sides. Long rows of mules can be seen emerging from the valleys, taking their course to the entrenchments, laden with bread and rations.

There is not much time to be lost, as, as soon as darkness falls, a nervous fire is opened by the entire enemy line, which however does not disturb our Turks in the least and nobody but the outposts participate.

During the last few weeks, the enemy has made enormous efforts and we must admire the bravery and valiance of the Turkish soldiers.

The English follow the tactics of cutting down everything in a violent artillery fire and then advancing with the infantry, that is, when this is possible. A few days ago, they began one afternoon to attack one wing. The shells whizzed from all their batteries and deep craters were dug up in the ground. The columns of smoke that arose, were either pitchblack or of a brilliant white and spread across the country in long lines, across the martyred land of Gallipoli. Shells—again and again, incessantly.... A high column of smoke springs up—pikrin—poison.

The shells continue to whizz and crack and hiss, there is no pause in the fighting, now shrapnels begin to burst, like soprano voices accompanied by the bass of the heavy shells.

This continues until evening, the whole night and the whole of the following day, and in the front trenches our valiant men are lying, their hands firmly grasping their rifles, waiting . . . . . thirty-six hours long—under this wasting fire of the heavy artillery.

Not one of them thought of leaving his place: and moving among them, encouraging them, their gallant General Staff officer Kemal Bey could be seen. He too has found his resting place on Gallipoli, and the Iron Cross which he had earned, could only be brought to his old mother. In this way, 30,000 heavy shells were fired on us. In the midst of this bombardment, the thought crossed my brain: what must that cost, if every shell costs a thousand Marks? And what did the day cost the enemy in human lives! Our batteries from the European and the Asiatic sides reply to the fire at once, shelling the enemy trenches that were fully manned, and the Turkish artillery men, composed of picked soldiers, shoot splendidly according to our opinion and that of the captured prisoners.

At last on the second evening, the enemy suddenly ceases fire on the whole line and a few moments of deathly stillness that are almost fearful, ensue. All glasses are fixed on the evening fog.

Suddenly a shade can be seen emerging from the enemy trenches, another and another . . . continually increasing, a company . . ., still another— — — the enemy is going to attack.

They are French troops. All these children which France has sent out to be butchered; but they are brave, that we must admit, and they renew the attack again and again. No movement can be noticed in the Turkish trenches . . . not a sound . . . good God, are the trenches empty? No, a rifle is quietly shoved across the parapet and a brown face follows . . . another and another, the trenches appear to have suddenly come to life, the men can be seen running through the supporting trenches, crying: "Allah, you are great, now it is our turn!"

The French lines come nearer and nearer, they are sure of victory. But suddenly, a devastating fire is opened on them, machine-guns rattle and mow them down, these children, who do not know, why they have been sent to this strange country.

Those, who have not been killed, retreat, and now through the darkness of night the long drawn Allah . . . lah . . . lah . . . lah . . . can be heard on all sides. The Turks are in pursuit and the bayonet is their favourite weapon. . . .

Night falls on the field that is drenched in blood. We have been victorious, one of the wounded men shows me his bleeding arm and a well-filled pouch with tobacco that has probably but a few moments ago belonged to the French officer leading the company.

"Düşman gitti" (the enemy has gone), "Allah büyük!" (God is great), and he slowly moves off to the dressing station in the valley.

The next morning they brought in the prisoners, the wounded carefully laid on mules. It is a touching trait of these Turkish soldiers that they are most considerate of the wounded enemies. In general, the Turks are in ecstasy during an attack and do not show any consideration. The prisoners were almost all quite young fellows in old blue coats that were much too long for them, and the captured rifles all old models, in which each cartridge must be loaded separately.

I can still see their astonished faces when they were given food and how one of them finally asked: "Eh, Monsieur, quand est-qu'on nous tue?" When I replied to him "Oh, we will not do that" they seemed quite relieved and told us that their officers had told them that the Turks kill all their prisoners without ado.

*(Berliner Zeitung am Mittag.)*

## 4. From the Italian Theatre of War.

### A Storm attack in the Dolomites.

The following fieldpost-letter written by an Austrian describes the fighting in the Dolomites during the course of an Italian attack, which was warded off:

The Italian artillery preparation had lasted for three days, firing violently as usual day and night, but their success is but limited, if the fact be considered that we had but 8 casualties. Suddenly there was a pause—we knew what this meant and rushed to our rifles. The outposts reported that two companies of infantry belonging to the Bascilicari, were approaching. They did not appear to be very enthusiastic about advancing on our position, as the two companies wandered round in the woods for about 3 hours.

Finally they advanced in three lines, led by a well-fed captain and an ensign with the tricolour. A glance shows that they are not Elite-troops, nor is their courage and training anything to boast of, but the poor devils must attack. They approach our positions at a slow pace without cover and when they observed our wire obstacles, the rifles seem to go off of their own accord. The Italians shoot like mad, never taking aim and consequently without much success, as our men are in good cover and await with perfect calm the order to shoot.

The sounds come up to us, as if uttered by children "Avanti! Savoya!" That is for the wavering. The enemy has advanced in three lines to within 50 yards of our wire obstacles and still none of the Tyrolians move. That appeared rather suspicious. The Italians bring their machine-guns into position and the rattle begins. Some of the most valiant Italians have advanced before the others and are endeavouring to lay tubes about 3 yards in length contain-



ing explosives, underneath our wire obstacles. Thus the front line advanced fairly near under continuous rifle fire. On our side no shot is fired. The first row has advanced to within 20 yards of the first entanglement, when our barrels pour their contents on the advancing Italians, the machine-guns rattle at their loudest, we have enough targets. The Italians are mown down like sheaves of corn, the fat captain and the ensign with the tricolour being among the first to fall. Wherever a little heap crowded together looking for cover, handgrenades were thrown and exploded. That was too much at once. The Italians waver, turn and run down the hill and after them our shells.

During the course of this attack, not one of our men was killed, but more than 100 dead and severely wounded lay before our wire obstacles, their blood steeping the hill in a purple red. Here, the shell has driven out the apple of one man's eye, there two are sitting together praying and weeping, begging for their torture to be ended. Many and many such dreadful sights could be seen and it was not for the first time that the Italian soldiers cursed the war in a violent manner. The dead are in the most extraordinary positions. One can be seen sitting, as if he were alive. His hands appear occupied with his shoes, but the body is lifeless. A bullet hit his heart just as he was in the act of tying his shoe. Wherever the handgrenades have burst, the scene is dreadful. When our men wanted to bury the corpses, they were prevented by the Italian artillery, thus it was that the whole atmosphere became poisonous.

These are some of the small episodes from the battles in the Tyrolian mountains, in the Dolomites, where nature's magic is giving place to such horrors.

*(Münchener Neueste Nachrichten.)*





